[श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण]

मेंट को एमेंड कर दीजिये क्योंकि अगर सब को पब्लिक इंटरेस्ट की फिक्र होती तो यह अखबार में नहीं छपता । यह पब्लिक इंटरेस्ट के ...(व्यवधान)... प्राइम मिनिस्टर फंड का पैसा निकालकर मिसयूज हुआ है । इसलिये मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि पब्लिक इंटरेस्ट की फिक्र सबको नहीं है ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already told you that I will allow nothing to go on record from now on. I have already identified Mr. Shahi to speak. (*Interrupions*). Please calm down now.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Madam, Mr. Gurupadaswamy's comments must go on record. He is so fair-minded. Why are you brushing it aside?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: There is a way in everything. I have no objection for an inquiry if there is any scandal. But let me tell you, you have not given permission to these friends. They are making allegations against another Member, who is not present here. (*Interruptions*).

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया :**

उपसभापति : मैंने आपको कह दिया, आप बैठ जाइये ।

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I know your morality. We know the morality of the Congress men. The whole country knows the morality and ethics of Congress men. (*Interruptions*) The Congress Party is known for its corruption. I know the Congress Party and Congress men.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : गुरुपदस्वामी जी, आप जेठमलानी जी को अपनी पार्टी से निकालेंगे, जिन्होंने प्रधान मंत्री फंड का दुरुपयोग किया है... (व्यवधान)...

ASSAM UNIVERSITY BILL, 1989.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): Madam Deputy Chairman, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the State of Assam and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Madam, today, we are fulfilling a pledge made by the Prime Minister to the people of Assam in August, 1985. During his visit to Assam, the Prime Minister had made a public announcement of the Central Government's intention to establish a Central University in the State. The role of universities in promoting and accelerating regional...

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Madam, on a point of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No point of order. Please sit down.

SHRI L. P. SHAHI: The role of universities in promoting and accelerating regional and national development is well recognised. It was with this intention that it was decided to establish a University in Assam although this did not form part of the Assam Accord. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Chakravarty, please do not interrupt the hon. Minister. Let him finish his speech first.

SHRI L. P. SHAHI: We hope that the new University would play a pivotal role in the development of the State of Assam

**Not recorded.

and the entire North-Eastern Region. In course of time, the University should become a seat of learning and an institution of excellence.

I would like to inform hon. Members about the present status of university education in Assam. The State is served by three universities, namely, the Guwahati University at Guwahati, the Dibrugarh University at Dibrugarh and the Assam Agricultural University at Jorhat established in the years 1948, 1965 and 1969 respectively. The former two Universities are teaching and affiliating while the Agricultural University is unitary. Under the Assam Accord, an Indian Institute of Technology is being established at Misa in Nowgong District of Assam. The North-Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology established at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh caters to the needs of the entire North-East including Assam. The jurisdiction of the Dibrugarh University extends over the four districts of Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Sibsagar. The remaining twelve districts of the State come under the jurisdiction of the Guwahati University.

There has been considerable debate about the location of the proposed Central University. Divergent views have been expressed on the subject by the State Government, Members of Parliament, Members of the State Legislative Assembly and prominent citizens. While one section, including the State Government, is insisting that the University should be established in the Brahmaputra Valley, an equally vocal section from the Barak Valley on the other hand has been justifying the need for establishment of this University in that region We made a sincere effort to avoid controversy and in the process the establishment of the University has been delayed. Despite our best efforts, it has not been possible to evolve a consensus in regard to the location of the University. After taking into consideration the geography of the State...

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA (Assam): The Minister does not know the geography of Assam.

SHRI L. P. SHAHI:...the educational needs and the sensitivities of the people and the inability of the State Government to establish a Universiy in Cachar so far, we feel it would be appropriate to establish the University in the Cachar District of Assam with headquarters at Silchar. The jurisdiction of the University would extend to the whole State. Colleges in the districts of Cachar, Karimganj, North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong would be affiliated to the University. The University would be free to grant affiliation to any other college in the State if the University concerned in whose jurisdiction such a college is located, has no objection. We believe that such an arrangement would be in the best interest of the State.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: No.

SHRI L. P. SHAHI: The Assam University would have an all-India character and enrol students and teachers from the entire country. The University is expected to play a crucial role in developing human resources for the diverse and multifarious development needs of the State. The University would also strive to maintain close linkages and liaison with institutions of higher education and research in the country and in the North-Eastern Region.

The Assam University would pursue the broad objecitves of the National Policy on Education, 1986. The University would introduce application-oriented and flexible courses suited to the needs of the society and the economy of Assam, promote interdisciplinary research and studies and use modern communications technology in imparting education. Continuing education and extension services would be essential components of the programmes and activities of the University. The use of computers for efficient management, the establishment of a modern library and information service and the setting up of a counselling centre for vocational guidance to students are also envisaged.

The powers, functions and the structure of the University would be by and large the same as in other Central Universities.

[Shri L. P. Shahi]

As in the case of other Central Universities, the President of India will be the Visitor of the University. We also propose to associate the Governor of Assam as the Chief Rector. The officers of the University will include a Chancellor, a Vice-Chancellor, a Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Deans, Registrar and Finance Officer. The authorities of the University would be the Court, the Executive Council, the Academic Council, the Planning Board, the Finance Committee and the Boards of Schools.

As in the case of newly established Univerities, the first Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and the Finance officer, shall be appointed by the Visitor. The Visitor would also constitute the first court, the Academic Council, the Executive Council, the Planning Board and the Finance Committee.

I do hope that the establishment of a Central university in Assam will fulfil the aspirations of the people of Assam and make a meaningful contribution to the progress and development of the region. I also hope that despite the reservations of the State Government about the location of the University in Cachar, the State Government would extend its full cooperation in making this university functional at the earliest. I am sure that members from all sections of the House will suppor this measure whole-heartedly.

With these words I move that the Assam University Bill, 1989 may be taken into consideration.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: I am on a point of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Chakravarty, let me go by procedure. I will allow you. Your name is also listed as one of the speakers. You have an absolute right to oppose anything on the earth; I will not object to it; but let me allow Mr. Malaviya to move his amendment.

There is one amendment by Shri Malaviya for referring the Bill to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha. The Member may move the amendment.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि :

"असम राज्य में अध्यापन और सहबद्धकारी विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना और उसका निगमन करने के लिये तथा उससे संबंधित या उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने वाले विधेयक को राज्य सभा के निम्नलिखित सदस्यों की प्रवर समिति को सौंपा जाये, अर्थात्:–

1. श्री मोहम्मद खलीलुर रहमान
2. श्री चतुरानन मिश्र
3. श्री वी० गोपालसामी
4. श्री ईश दत्त यादव
5. श्री एम०ए० बेबी
6. प्रो० सी० लक्ष्मन्ना
7. श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र
8. श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी
9. श्री मोतरु हनुमंत राव
10. श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी
11. श्री शमीम हाशमी
12. श्री राम अवधेश सिंह
13. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय

और उसे आगामी सत्र के प्रथम दिवस तक अपना प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत करने का अनुदेश दिया जाए"

The question was proposed

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Madam Deputy Chairman, I, the Member from the State of Assam, should have supported the Assam University Bill, 1989 by which the Central Government is going to set up a Central University in Assam. It should have been a matter of rejoice especially for a teacher like me but I could not support the Bill without some amendments to the Bill.

[Dr. Nagen Saikia]

Tezpur. It is a remarkable deviation from the announcement of the Prime Minister and from the decision of the Government level meeting held on 22nd October 1985. But to our utter surprise, the Union Minister of State for Education, Shri L. P Shahi, in his reply to the unstarred question No. 47 on 22nd February 1989 stated in the Rajya Sabha that the Central University would be set up in Cachar. The AGP MPs, on 23rd February 1989, wrote a letter to the Prime Minister expressing their unhappiness at this behaviour of the Central Government. On 25th February 1989 the Chief Minister of Assam, in a letter to the Prime Minister expressed unhappiness at the unilatral decision taken by the Central Government in total disregard to and without even consultation with the State Government. The Chief Minister in his letter clearly stated that the Barak Valley is a part of Assam and the Government of Assam had equal concern to the needs of this Valley also. And, therefore, the State Government was trying to cater to the needs of the Valley by establishing a fair number of higher educational institutions and industries. Moreover, he added that on the basis of the Resolution of the Assam Asembly on 23rd September 1972, the AGP Government was contemplating to set up a State University in Cachar. But as there is no higher institution, in the whole of the North bank where a good number of tribal people live, and which is contiguous to Arunachal Pradesh also, the State Government desired to have the Central University at Tezpur. But in total disregard to the State Government, the Central Government has brought this Bill to set up the University at Silchar under the title "Assam University" to try to console the people of the Brahmaputra valley.

This university is going to be set up at Silchar not in the interest of the people of Cachar not to speak of the interest of the people of the whole state: it is going to be set up in the political interest of one individual, and that individual is the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev. In an interview with a journalist in the month of January, 1987, Shri Dev declared that if he could not get the Central University for Cachar, he would not contest in the next election. Now, to ensure the safety of his political career; the Prime Minister and his Government have not hesitated to deviate from their own words and to disregard the decision of the State Government. Is it not shameful for a government to act in favour of an individual, going against the desire of a State Government and of the majority of the people of the State? It is equally shameful for the members of the Congress(I) in Assam to toe the desire of an individual to save their political career. (*Interruptions*) The University which is an outcome of the Assam movement, cannot be called a fruit of the Congress (I). I would have been the happiest person if the Central Government would have proposed to set up another university in Cachar, after setting up of the first at Tezpur. If somebody thinks that because Cachar is dominated by Bengali-speaking people we are opposing this Bill, then, Sir, it would be the greatest lie because I myself, during the period of the last two decades, have been trying my best to contribute in my humble way for healthy growth of good relationship between the two communities in Assam. I am opposing not because the University is going to be set up in Cachar but for the way the Bill has been brought to the House. In some cases it was found, Sir, that a section of Calcutta papers tried to put some of their words into my mouth, even indicating that as Cachar is dominated by Bengali-speaking people we oppose the establishment of the University in Cachar. It is a total lie. But I am sorry to say that overriding the desire and decision of the State Government, the Central Government has proved its undemocratic anti-federal and unitary character once more.

Therefore, without proper amendments of the Bill, that we have already proposed, I, on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, the AGP, cannot support the Bill as it has been tabled in the House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, before the hon. speaker sits down, would he be good

I am pained to see that while the hon. Prime Minister is advocating for Panchayati raj to decentralise power to the village level, he and his Government are taking a stand to curb the power of the State Government, which is contrary to their announcement.

This Government is a Government which has been maintaining double standards and this has been proved once more by the Assam University Bill, 1989.

The Vice-Chairman (Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy) in the Chair.

On 12th August, 1985, just before the signing of the Assam Accord, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, hon. Prime Minister of India, in a public meeting in Gauhati announced to add more sugar in his speech to satisfy the agitating people of the Brahmaputra Valley, Assam, that a Central University would be set up in Assam and that too in the Brahmaputra valley. The people believed the words that came out from the mouth of the hon. Prime Minister himself, but today the Bill has proved that the Prime Minister of the country speaks untruth. Then whom should we believe in this country?

The most important aspect of it is the Centre's attitude and behaviour towards the State Government. Assam Government on 14th August, 1987 and on 22nd August, 1987, sent messages to the Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, that the State Government had identified necessary land for the Central university in Tezpur. The Education Minister of Assam vide message No. EPG 124|85|75 informed the Union Minister of Human Resource Development on 24th November, 1987 about identification of site for the

12.00 NOON

Central University. Again, the Education Minister of Assam, vide his D.O. letter No. EPG|124. 85|88 dated 1st July 1988 informed Shri Shiv Shanker, the present Union Minister for Human Resource Development, that the land near Tezpur has been made available for the Central University. On 19th July 1988 he reiterated the view in another message and expected that the Central Government would honour the decision of the State Government to establish the Central University at Tezpur. On 6th August 1988 the Assam Education Minister, by a message, drew the attention of the Union Minister, Mr. Shiv Shanker, to a news item where it was said that the Union Minister of State for Education assured a delegation of All-Cachar and Karimganj Students' Union that the Central University would be set up in Barak Valley of Assam. The Education Minister of Assam once again requested the Central Government not to deviate from what the Prime Minister said. The honourable Chief Minister of Assam, Shri P. K. Mahanta, also wrote a letter to the honourable Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, on the same issue on 22nd August 1988, requesting him to take necessary steps for setting up the University at Tezpur. Accordingly, the Government of Assam, vide letter No. EPG|124| 85|Pt. dated 22nd August 1988 suggested that the name of the Central University should be Tezpur Central University. Not to speak of the AGP Government in Assam, about 15 eminent Congress (I) leaders of Assam and three Congress (I) MPs from Arunachal Pradesh wrote to the Prime Minister on 5th September 1988 that the Central University should be set up at Tezpur. They very correctly pointed out that "As per minutes of the discussion held between the Central Government and the State Government of Assam on 22nd October 1985 in New Delhi, it was decided that the responsibility for the selection of the site for the establishment of the Central University would lie with the State Government of Assam." In a reply to starred question No. 81 of mine in the Rajya Sabha on 16th November 1988, Shri Shiv Shanker replied that the State Government informed about the identification of site for the University near Tezpur, but for competing claims the final decision was not taken. To my supplementary, he replied that "The State Government had earlier agreed that they would set up a University in the Barak Valley. But no progress has been made in that regard. All the issues will be recokned for the purpose of taking a decision" It means that if a State University is set up in the Barak Valley, the Central Government would set up the Central University at

enough to clarify one aspect? The State Government of Assam had indeed, through a resolution of the Assam Assembly, proposed to set up a university in the Barak valley. Now how are these two at conflict? Where has that proposal gone? Why was that proposal not pursued with the Union Government?

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: The hon. Chief Minister of Assam, in his letter dated 25th February, 1989, written to the Prime Minister, clearly stated that the Government of Assam was contemplating to set up a State University in Cachar on the basis of the Resolution adopted by the Assam Assembly on September 23, 1972. The resolution clearly states, and I quote:

> "In the spirit of the Official Language Act, this Assembly do further resolve that a separate University be set up with territorial jurisdiction over the district of Cachar and the Government of India be moved in the matter."

But, Sir, the Congress (I) Government which rules the State, slept over the resolution for long, more than ten years. The Chief Minister continues:

> "The State Government is confident that only such a University will be able to cater for the specific needs of this part of the State more effectively. In fact the Government of Assam has already constituted a committee to go into the practical aspects of this proposition."

But I am sorry to say that the Government of India has not taken into consideration even the letter of the hon. Chief Minister of the State of Assam.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE (Assam): I take the floor to lend my support to the Assam University Bill, 1989. First of all I, on my behalf, on behalf of my party and on behalf of the millions of the people of the twin districts of Cachar and Karimganj of the Barak Valley, would like to express our heart-felt thanks to the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi for this Bill to establish the Central university which is named as Assam University in the Barak Valley district of Cachar. (*Interruptions*) Bijoya Didi, with all respect to you, I would like to say that I have listened to you without making any interruption. You also please listen to me without making any interruption. If you have anything to say, you say afterwards.

Sir, this is the centenary year of respected late Jawaharlal Nehru. I would like to start with a quotation from him because we have achieved something very great:

> "An achievement requires character, discipline, unity of action and readiness to sacrifice the individual self for the larger cause."

All sections of the people of the Barak Valley, the Manipuri people, the tea garden people, the ex-tea garden people, the religious minorities and the linguistic minorities have shown all this and much more. All the students of Cachar, the guardians of Cachar and all the teachers under the name and banner of Shiksha Sanrakshan Samiti where the people are from all political parties, those who are having their implicit faith in different political parties, believing in CPM ideology, believing in Congress(I) ideology, believing in BJP ideology and all teachers put their hands and shoulders together and fought a united battle. After all this long fight we have got it. But if you go through the record of the years of fight and if we start from the days of 1962, Mr. Satyendra Mohan Dev, father of the present Union Minister of State for Home, Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev, was the then Municipal Chairman of Silchar. His courtyard was basmeared and soaked with blood of eleven martyrs who had laid down their lives fighting for the language. I had tears in my eyes. People of the Barak Valley will be remembering them today, when we will be achieving our object of having a university in the Barak Valley district of Assam. For all these years we have been fighting in a non-violent way, in a democratic way. There are people who say Gandhism and non-violence is meant for export only. It is not meant for internal

[Shri Kamalendu Bhattacharjee]

consumption. But the people of Barak Valley have shown the way and have set an example before the people of India that by fighting in a democratic and non-violent way, we can achieve our objective. Mrs. Gandhi went there when there was an agitation for six years and there was bloodshed all over Assam. The twin districts of Cachar and Karimganj remained an island of peace.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Because they did not support the cause of Assam.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: And what happened there? She promised to give us a Central university because we were suffering for no fault of ours. And the worthy son of the illustrious mother has kept the promise of her mother. We are grateful to him. We are grateful not only to him, but also to Shiv Shankarji and L. P. Shahiji who have brought this Bill here. Sir, here I will be quoting a quotation of late lamented Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru : "A university stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for progress, for the adventure of ideas and for the search for truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards even higher objectives." Sir, as I have already said, we have set an example and others should follow. Even Arunachal also set an example. Even without a single drop of bloodshed they could get their Statehood. When the people of Cachar and Karimganj were agitating, students and guardians were being arrested, students were asking, students were pressurising Santosh Mohan Dev that until and unless we go the Mizoram way and until and unless we go the Nagaland way, we will not get our university. But thanks to Santosh Mohan Dev because he always made them realise, he always made them understand that they should have faith in Shri Rajiv Gandhi...

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Just a minute. It was published in the newspapers that Santosh Mohan Dev invited the President of ACKSA to Calcutta, Mr. Pradip Datta Roy. He announced and declared that Santosh Mohan Dev and asked them to have weapons in hand for fulfilment of their demands. It came out in the newspapers and the Minister has not denied it.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: So, he always persuaded them to have faith in the Prime Minister and at the appropriate time he would give the university. Now, we are very happy that through democratic means, through non-violent means, we have got our university.

Sir, the genesis of the demand for the establishment of a university dates back to 1972. The hon. Member, Mr. Nagen Saikia has made a reference to the resolution of September, 1972. Sir, in 1972 both the universities of Guwahati and Dibrugarh adopted a resolution that Assamese will be the sole medium of instruction in both the universities. But, Sir, according to the Shastri formula of 1961, the official language for the district of Cachar was only Bengali. So, there was a peculiar situation and it was decided by the then Assam Assembly that they would establish a State university in the district of Cachar. But, Sir, this resolution was subsequently rescinded under heavy political pressure. If you go through the history, Sir, you will find about it. I do not want to embitter our relations with them by quoting all those historical facts. But if you go through the history, you will find under what circumstances that particular resolution of the Assembly was subsequently rescinded. Sir, what happened in 1985? Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia was the Chief Minister of Assam then. He started a new initiative to establish a State university in the Barak Valley. What happened then? He also appointed a Committee to find out a suitable land for the establishment of the university. Then, what happened, Sir? Mr. Profulla Kumar Mohanta, the AGP Government, came to the saddle of power.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Why are you mentioning his name?

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Didi, have patience. I am not saying anything against him. The AGP Government came to power in December, 1985.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Mrs. Chakarvarty, when your turn comes then you explain but don't interrupt him.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI (Assam): Every Member in the House has a right to speak. Why they should interrupt him?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Please sit down. You are advising and you yourself are doing that.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Our Chief Minister, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mohanta has been sitting over the burning issue since December, 1985 very callously when Mr. L. P. Shahi made an announcement in this House. Our hon. Nagen Saikia Ji has said that the AGP Government was contemplating to establish--might be those who know James Joyce's "stream of consciousness" where the action takes place in the mind but outside they do not know—but I have not heard anything concrete in paper. In letter, there has been nothing. This is absolute Morganism...(*Interruptions*). Morgan was a Shakespearean critic. He always indulged in speculative extension beyond the range of drama. This sort of notion, in literary terms is called Morganism. Even if it might be there, I fear that he has not taken any action. I hope, I am mistaken. I will be veary happy if Nagen Saikia Ji shows me something on record that Prafula Kumar Mohanta has taken some action, I will be the happiest person. He has not taken any action. (*Interruptions*).

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: I have quoted the dates and the numbers of the communications made by the hon. Education Minister.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: But no letter, no public communication, nothing is there. Now, there has been this most welcome declaration that there will be a Central University. But, Sir, on 12th August 1985, in the George Field, Shri Rajiv Gandhi made a statement in a public meeting. I was also one of the listeners in this meeting. He said, there will be a campus of the North Eastern Hill University in Cachar and there will be a Central University in Assam. I repeat, there will be a Central University in Assam. If it is correct, then what Nagen Saikia Ji has accused that the Prime Minister is on record is wrong. Sir, if the Prime Minister has said that the Central university will be established in the Brahmaputra valley if the Prime Minister has said this, I am a gentleman, I say before this House that I will resign my membership. I challenge, I will resign my membership. (*Interruptions*)... If the Prime Minister has said that the Central University will be in the Brahmaputra valley. I will resign my Membership. (*Interruptions*). He has not. He said, this will be in Assam. (*Interruptions*). And Cachar is a part and parcel of Assam. The Prime Minister said that the Central university will be in Assam and not in the Brahmaputra valley. Let there be....(*Interruptions*)...I cannot take it lying down. It is an accusation against my Prime Minister. It is an accusation against my leader. (*Interruptions*)...

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: You yourself said that the Prime Minister said that the campus of the North Eastern Hill University will be in Cachar and the Central university in Assam. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Cachar is in Assam. But he never said, Brahmaputra valley. He never said that. (*Interruptions*)... He said Assam. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Mr. Bhattacharjee, please sit down. (*Interruptions*)...This is not the way. I am not going to allow you. This is not the way in which both of you stand and say whatever you like without taking my permission. No, I will not allow you. Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty, your turn will come and you say whatever you like in your turn. In this way, nobody is going to listen to you. Even I am not understanding what you are speaking about. So, what is the use of your saying? So many Members stand up and start saying. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: She is on a point of order.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: The Prime Minister said, there will be a campus of the North Eastern Hill University in Cachar. Subsequently it was found that the constitution of the North Eastern Hill University did not allow establishment of a campus in Cachar. The preamble in their Constitution was like that. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Conclude now.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, please give me a little more time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Two minutes.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Please give me some more time. I will take from my party's time.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Please give him some more time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): You need not plead for him. I know.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Then the proposal to establish a university came. Cachar is part of Assam. I would have been the happiest person if Mr. Nagen Saikia has amended his statement by saying 'I should have supported'. I would have been happy if he has withdrawn the word 'have'. He should support because it is in Assam. (*Interruptions*). I am also an Assamese. But I am a Bengali-speaking Assamese. Cachar and Silchar are also part of Assam. And what was said by Mr. Prafulla Mohanta? He, in a public meeting in Silchar, Gandhi Bagh, made a statement, 'We shall not stand in the way of Cachar having a Central University'. It is reported in 'Assam Tribune' and 'Sentinel'. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, I would like to ... (*Interruptions*).

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: I want to make only one point. It was misreported. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): How is it possible for two people to speak at the same time? (*Interruptions*).

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: We do not have any objection to have another university in Assam. The Chief Minister's statement was that if the Central Government is going to give another university, we do not have any objection. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: There was no contradiction... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Why is he interrupting? He will have his time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Mrs. Bijoya Chakravarty, when your leader is standing up to speak why do you also stand up at the same time? Is it proper on your part? Can both of you speak at the same time? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: This statement came in 'Assam Tribune'. (*Interruptions*). But what happened? The moment ... (*Interruptions*). He said he would not stand in the way. But, the moment the university has been set up, by letter to the Prime Minister he has objected to it. The people of the Barak Valley are here to reconcile to this double-faced gambit of the Assam Chief Minister, Mr. Profulla Kumar Mohanta.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Punjab): To recover from the blows that they are inflicting on their own people. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: I would not allow him to malign our Chief Minister.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: The establishment of the Central University will serve many purposes. The rationale behind the establishment of the Central University in Cachar is clear and compelling. It shall obviate the possibility of any future confrontation on the question of medium of instruction because their medium of instruction will be English.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): All right. Conclude please. You were allowed 12 minutes. You have exceeded 18 minutes.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: It will reduce the pressure on the existing two universities because these two universities have already reached the point of saturation. This Assam University will relieve the pressure on the existing two universities of Cachar and Dibrugarh. This University will also lighten the financial burden on the Government of Assam. The first medical college was in Dibrugarh. The second medical college was in Guwahati. The third medical college was in Silchar. The first engineering college was in Guwahati. The second engineering college was in Jorhat. The third egineering college was in Silchar. The first university was in Guwahati. The second university was in Guwahati. The third must be in Silchar. Sir, it can cater to a wide area. There are 15 general education colleges. There are medical colleges and engineering colleges. (*Interruptions*). This will have a salutary effect. This university will—I quote:

"This will serve the purpose to stir the soul and to raise the genius and....the heart." (*Interruption*) They gave a proposal that the university should be named Tejpur Central University. It makes it a bit parochial but we are very happy that our university is named Assam University. We believe in being citizens of Assam, true citizens of Assam Our university has been named Assam University. (*Time Bell Rings*) I would just like to conclude by quoting, in this Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary Year, what Jawaharlal Nehru said: "A sensitive person will suffer continually on behalf of others; an insensitive person may escape that but at the cost of much that is fine in life." I would hope that our Chief Minister, respected Profulla Kumar Mohanta, will be a very sensitive man and he will realise that they are all citizens of Assam as much as they are people of Tejpur, as much as they are people of Dibrugarh, and that he will concede this demand. Then I will give him a plus mark on the credit side of my judgment.

With these words, I thank Shri Rajivji, Shri Shiv Shankerji and Shri Shahiji for bringing this Bill in fulfilment of the long-standing aspirations of the people of Cachar. I once again lend my support to this Bill.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष जी, असम विश्वविद्यालय के संबंध में जो विधेयक प्रस्तुत किया गया है, उसका मैं स्वागत करता हूं केवल कुछ प्रावधानों को छोड़कर के । असम में एक केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय खुले, यह मांग बहुत दिन से चल रही है और जैसा इसके उद्देश्य और कारणों में स्वयं शिक्षा मंत्री जी ने बताया कि सन 1985 में ही सिद्धांत रूप से स्वीकार कर लिया गया था कि असम में एक केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना होनी चाहिये ।

मान्यवर, इसके अनुच्छेद "3" में यह कहा गया है :

(1) असम विश्वविद्यालय के नाम से एक विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित किया जायेगा ।

(2) विश्वविद्यालय का मुख्यालय सिलचर में होगा और वह अपनी अधिकारिता के भीतर ऐसे अन्य स्थानों पर भी, जो वह ठीक समझे, निवेश स्थापित कर सकेगा ।

[श्री सत्यप्रकाश मालवीय]

मान्यवर, इसमें केवल स्थान के बारे में कुछ असहमति है और मैं समझता हूं कि हमारे संविधान में जो केन्द्र और राज्य के संबंध के बारे में कहा है, उस पर यह आघात है क्योंकि असम केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय कहां पर स्थापित हो, किस स्थान पर स्थापित हो, इसके संबंध में न तो राज्य सरकार की कोई सलाह ली गई है और न राज्य सरकार की सहमति ही ली गई।

मान्यवर, सन 1985 में लोक सभा के चुनाव के बाद जब इस देश के वर्तमान प्रधानमंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी का देश के नाम प्रसारण हुआ था तो उनका पहला वाक्य अपना यह था –

"Instead of politics of confrontation, we are going to enter into politics of consultation."

अब जो टकराव की राजनीति है, वह अध्याय समाप्त हो गया और सहयोग की राजनीति इस देश में होगी – यह 1985 में श्री राजीव गांधी ने कहा था। लेकिन मुझे देखकर के दुख हो रहा है कि इस संबंध में जो असम के मुख्य मंत्री का पत्र है या असम सरकार का जो निवेदन है, उस पर इस सरकार ने विचार ही नहीं किया, स्वीकार करने की बात तो छोड़ दीजिये। सरकारिया कमीशन ने अभी जो अपनी रिपोर्ट सरकार के सामने दी है, जो विचाराधीन है, उसके पार्ट वन में जो प्रस्तावना है, उसका इस असम विधयक से बहुत संबंध है, इसलिये मैं उसका उद्धरण करना चाहूंगा। जस्टिस सरकारिया ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में लिखा है––

"The very dynamics of the system with its checks and balances, with all its problems and conflicts in the working of the Union-State relations, the stresses and strains generated by such problems may stifle the working of the system and endanger the unity and integrity of the country. In the wake of social, economic and political developments over the years, new trends, tensions and issues have arisen. Consultation which is a prerequisite for the smooth functioning of the Union-State relations is threatened by the politics of confrontation."

मैं समझता हूं कि जस्टिस सरकारिया ने इस बात को लिखकर के प्रधान मंत्री का जनवरी 1985 का जो देश के नाम प्रसारण था केवल उस ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया है कि अगर इस देश में टकराव की राजनीति होगी तो हमारे देश की जो एकता है हमारे देश की जो अखंडता है उसको भी खतरा पैदा हो सकता है। इस लिये मैं माही जी से और जो विभाग के मंत्री हैं श्री पी. शिवशंकर, उनसे अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि असम विश्वविद्यालय कहां स्थापित हो, किस स्थान पर स्थापित हो, कहां इसका मुख्यालय हो, इस सिलसिले में सरकार को पुनर्विचार करना चाहिये।

अभी मेरे मित्र सैकिया जी ने मुख्य मंत्री के पत्र का उद्धरण किया है मैं उस पोरशन को छोड़ देता हूं जिसका उद्धरण व कर चुके हैं। असम के मुख्यमंत्री श्री प्रफुल्ल कुमार महंता ने 25 फरवरी 1989 को इस देश के प्रधानमंत्री के पास एक पत्र लिखा और पत्र लिख कर के उन्होंने यही अनुरोध किया कि असम-विश्वविद्यालय कहां पर स्थापित हो इसका मुख्यालय कहां पर हो ? मैं तो यही कहूंगा कि राज्य सरकार की बात को केन्द्र सरकार को मानना चाहिये।

I would refer only to a few lines.

"Kindly recall your announcement in Guwahati on 12th August 1985. On the Union Government's decision to have a Central University in Assam, I communicated the considered views of the Government of Assam regarding the location of the University vide my D.O. letter of 22nd August 1988. The Government of Assam has already identified the area in Tezpur for the location of the proposed University and also separately made it known to the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development through comunications sent in November 1987, on 7th July 1988 and 6th August 1988."

जहां तक मुझे जानकारी मिली है, असम के मुख्यमंत्री के पत्र की स्वीकृति के अलावा केन्द्र सरकार से उनके पास कोई सूचना भी नहीं भेजी गई है। इस तरीके से आप प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्रियों के साथ व्यवहार करते हैं। असम के जो वर्तमान मुख्यमंत्री है, वहां असम गण परिषद की सरकार है, जो वहां की जनता की राय का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं ठीक उसी प्रकार जिस प्रकार से आप अकसर कहते हैं कि इस देश के प्रधानमंत्री और देश की जो केन्द्रीय सरकार है—

They represent the will of the people. Similarly, Mohunta's Government of Assam represents the will of the people of Assam.

तो उनकी इच्छाओं का क्यों कुठाराघात आप कर रहे हैं। जो कि आप से अनुरोध कर रहे हैं, निवेदन कर रहे है? फिर उन्होंने लिखा है –

"The Government of Assam is unable to appreciate how a unilateral decision could be taken by the Central Government in total disregard and even without consultation with the State Government, more so at variance with your own announcement in Guwahati in August 1985 that the University will be located in the Brahmaputra valley. Under the circumstances, I would strongly urge upon you to reconsider the dicision to set up the proposed University in the Barak valley of the hill region with a view to establishing it on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra for which a site has been offered by the State Government near Tezpur."

मैं सिर्फ निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि साही जी, आप तो बहुत विद्वान हैं, बहुत वरिष्ठ राजनीतिज्ञ हैं शिवंशकर जी भी बहुत विद्वान हैं और बहुत वरिष्ठ राजनीतिज्ञ हैं क्यों नहीं आप दो बालकों में जो आपस में विवाद हो रहा है, उसको बैठाकर तय करा देते ?

श्री चित्त बसु (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : **बालक हैं ?**

श्री सत्यप्रकाश मालवीय : हां बालक हैं। मोहंता जी भी बालक हैं और श्री राजीव गांधी भी बालक हैं, राजनीति में तो बालक ही हैं दोनों। इसलिये मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि आप लोग, जो वरिष्ठ राजनीतिज्ञ है वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक रहे हैं, बैठ कर के इस मामले को तय करा दीजिये।

श्री चित्त बसु : नाबालिग भी ?

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : नहीं नाबालिक नहीं कहता। मैं इसके एक प्रावधान की ओर भी आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा। इसमें ऐसा कहा गया है कि राष्ट्रपति जी विजिटर होंगे और आसाम के राज्यपाल इसके चीफ रेक्टर होंगे। उसके बाद चांसलर, वाइस चांसलर, प्रो–वाइस चांसलर होंगे। इसको यहां पर कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है। मैंने देखा कि इसमें चांसलर के क्या कर्तव्य हैं, क्या अधिकार हैं, क्या क्या काम उनको करना है ? सिवाय कनवोकेशन में प्रिसाइड करने के चांसलर का कौनसा कर्तव्य है ? मैं समझता हूं कि यह निरर्थक पद है। इसे बिना वजह रखने की जरूरत नहीं है। आपने प्रो-वाइस चांसलर का पद भी रखा है। मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री जी अपने उत्तर में इसका उल्लेख करें।

महोदय, बहुत राज्यों से बार-बार मांग आती है कि वहां पर केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित हो। एक केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय है, बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय। यह विश्वविद्यालय सन 1915 के कानून के हिसाब से काम कर रहा है। महामना मदन मोहन मालवीय जी ने उसकी स्थापना की थी और 1969 में गजेन्द्र गड़कर कमेटी बनी और गजेन्द्र गड़कर कमेटी ने रिपोर्ट दी कि चूंकि बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय का 1915 का केन्द्रीय अधिनियम है इसलिये उसमें बहुत ज्यादा परिवर्तन और परिवर्धन की आवश्यकता है। इसलिये केन्द्र सरकार को इस पर विचार करना चाहिये। वहां कुछ झगडा हो गया था। जस्टिस भगवती वहां के चांसलर थे। तो 1969 में उसमें थोडा सा परिवर्तन हुआ। उसके बाद विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग के वर्किंग ग्रुप ने 1976 में अपनी एक रिपोर्ट सबमिट

[श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवी]

की । लोकसभा में 1976 में शायद एक ड्राफ्ट बिल प्रस्तुत किया गया या तैयार कर पेश किया गया, लेकिन चूंकि लोकसभा भंग हो गयी इसलिये वह विधेयक पारित नहीं किया जा सका। वहां के छात्र अध्यापक और आम नागरिक भी इस बात की मांग करते आ रहे हैं कि बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय के केन्द्रीय अधिनियम में संशोधन होना चाहिये । इसलिये मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करूंगा कि सरकार को इस ओर ध्यान देना चाहिये । मैंने सदन में बार-बार यह प्रश्न उठाया है और उत्तर मिला है कि प्रश्न विचाराधीन है । मेरा अनुरोध है कि इस पर सरकार को जल्दी विचार करना चाहियें ।

अंत में मैं इलाहाबाद यूनिवर्सिटी के बारे में कहना चाहूंगा जिसे कि आक्सफोर्ड आफ द ईस्ट कहा जाता है । वहां पर बडे-बडे देश के राजनेताओं और राष्ट्रपति ने भी शिक्षा प्राप्त की है । इलाहाबाद के और उत्तर प्रदेश के लोग मांग कर रहे हैं कि इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय को केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय का दर्जा दिया जाना चाहिये । मेरा अनुरोध है कि भारत सरकार को इस ओर भी ध्यान देना चाहिये ।

महोदय मैं अपनी बात यह कहकर समाप्त करूंगा कि सहयोग की राजनीति चलने दी जाये । असम विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित हो, इसे असम के लोग भी चाहते हैं, केन्द्रीय सरकार भी चाहती है हम सब भी चाहते हैं । लेकिन इसमें राजनीति नहीं आनी चाहिये इसलिये अगर असम की सरकार ने आपसे कोई अनुरोध किया है तो प्रधान मंत्रीजी ने खुद ही कहा है कि सहयोग की राजनीति चलेगी तो तब तक आप उनसे विचार-विमर्श कीजिये और कोई हल निकालिये । इसके लिये मैंने अपना एक संशोधन भी रखा है कि इस मामले को प्रवर समिति के समक्ष भेज दिया जाये । इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ केवल दो बातों को छोडकर जहां कि चांसलर और कुछ छोटे-छोटे पद हैं और स्थान के संबंध में अपने विचार प्रकट करते हुये मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी) : इससे पहले कि अगले माननीय सदस्य बोले, आप लोग सुनें । चूंकि कांग्रेस की लिस्ट बहुत बड़ी है और बोलने वालों की संख्या भी ज्यादा है, इसलिये दस मिनट से ज्यादा किसी को नहीं बोलना है ।

Confine yourself within 10 minutes.

SHRI BAHARUL ISLAM (Assam): Sir, I hope I will be able to finish in 10 minutes. Only one aspect of the Bill has been debated upon uptill now, namely, the location of the University. Nobody has spoken about University education and other things. And Mr. Malaviya has pointed out a very important thing that politics should not be brought in in such matter. But what was debated uptill now was purely from the political point of view. It is a very sensitive subject. The location of a central university in Assam is a very delicate matter. Even then we will have to speak because the two hon. Members of the AGP have observed that it is a disgrace for the Congress(I) Members from Assam to support this Bill. We have also received letters from some extremists of Assam saying that if the university is established in Assam, they will commit suicide. We are not going to oblige them. In public life we have to bear all this on our shoulders. Now, is the Government justified in locating the university in Cachar?

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it has been stated:

"There have been competing claims for location of the University between Brahmaputra valley and Barak valley. Considering the total development of higher education in the State and the fact that an Indian Institute of Technology is being established in the northern region of Assam, it is proposed that the Central University may be located in the Cachar district."

There is rivalry, bad blood and crisis of confidence between the people of Assam and the Bengali-speaking people of Cachar for a pretty long time. We must not perpetuate it. Assam is in a very bad position. Assam is a land in which there is no absolute majority. It is a State in which

the minorities live. There are linguistic minorities, religious minorities and ethnic minorities. New communities are coming and coming day by day. If we go on quelling like this, we will do a disservice to Assam. Our endeavour should be to help in the construction of a new, united and strong Assam. How is it possible? We fight about the location of the University. We have to construct a strong and united Assam in which only one kind of people live, *viz*, the people of Assam. Call them Assamese people or people from Assam. They may speak Assamese. They may speak Bengali. They may speak Hindi. They may speak Oriya or they may speak any other language. They may belong to any religion. They may be tribals or they may be non-tribals. We want to create a new, strong and united Assam. From that aspect only, we should judge the location of this university.

The Vice-Chairman (Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya) in the Chair.

Now it has been alleged that the Prime Minister made a statement in the meeting at Guwahati promising to locate university in the Brahmaputra valley. This has been very seriously challenged by Mr. Kamalendu Bhattacharjee. He says that he himself was present there and he has offerd a challenge saying hat if it is proved false, then he is ready to resign from this House. But a similar challenge was not given by Dr. Nagen Saikia or by anybody else of the AGP. I hope Dr. Nagen Saikia was not present in the meeting. Therefore, we feel that certainly the Prime Minister did not make a statement saying that the University will be located in the Brahmaputra valley. I gather from the circumstances that he must have said that the university will be granted to Assam. Even in the Assam Accord, it has been stated that a Central University will be established in Assam. It was not spelt out whether it would be in the Brahmaputra valley or in the Cachar valley. But the question is whether the location of the university in Cachar is justified. That is the point. In my view, it is justified now and for this the blame is to go to the AGP Government of Assam for the simple reason that they have been committing one mistake after another and, therefore, they are in this plight today. Now it has been admitted by Dr. Nagen Saikia that a Resolution was adopted in the Assam Assembly that a State University will be established in he district of undivided Cachar. Why did they not do it? It is because the people of Cachar already had distrust of the people of Assam valley on the ground of language. They say, "we have been demanding a University here, you promised even by a Resolution, and uptill now, you have done nothing." Secondly, a circular called ASEB—Assam Secondary Education Board circular directing that Assamese should be taught in the Cachar schools... (*Interruption*) I am going to correct it. But I am told by Dr. Nagen Saikia—and I believe him—that the AGP Government did not issue it, but only through some mischievous source, by some officer it was issued, and it created a lot of trouble and that circular has not been given effect to. It was really very nice. Anyway, the mischief has been done, namely frustration and suspicion has been created between the people of the Assam Valley and the Barak Valley. That was number one. The second one was this. The third was the linguistic disturbances... (*Interruption*) Beg your pardon.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): You don't reply to her. You continue.

SHRI BAHARUL ISLAM: This is old one. But we want to live in one united, modern Assam. We want to forget the past, the quarrelling past because due to this communalism, India was divided. On the basis of linguistic communalism, we do not want to bifurcate Assam any more. That is my viewpoint. Therefore, Mr. Kamalendu said that the students and other association people came and impressed upon the Government of Assam that, 'you see, we have been deprived from time to time by the Government of Assam and, threfore, we want this Central University in Cachar.' They have given it. In compensation in return, waht the Government of India has given to the Assam Val-

[Shri Baharul Islam]

ley? An Indian Institute of Technology is being established in the Northern region of Assam. So, it will be in the Brahmaputra Valley.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: It is not in the Northern region but it is in the middle of Assam actually. The IIT is going to be set up in the middle of Assam. It is some mistake that was done by the Minister in his announcement that it is going to be set up in the Northern Assam. It is not the Northern Assam. It is in the middle of Assam.

SHRI BAHARUL ISLAM: It is the Northern region of Assam. I will explain. You may be right but this may not be wrong for the simple reason that what the meaning is of the Northern region of Assam. This Northern region means, the Assam Valley and the Brahmaputra Valley have been divided by a range of hills, these Karbi Anglong hills, the North Assam hills. So, northern means this Brahmaputra Valley and the southern means the Barak Valley. From that point of view, naturally his I.I.T. will form within the Brahmaputra Valley. But the difference will be that an ordinary teaching and affiliating University will be a mere University producing only degreewallas with no guarantee of employment, but this Institute of Technology will be a very prestigious one which will produce graduates and practically their employment is guaranteed. It is a prestigious University. I myself was under the impression that this was not a University, it was a Deemed University.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Excuse me. The University cannot be substituted by one I.I.T.

SHRI BAHARUL ISLAM: My submission is that the difference will be this: A mere ordinary, normal University will produce only post-graduates whereas here they will produce some technical people.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): Please conclude.

SHRI BAHARUL ISLAM: I am concluding. This will produce technical people. And immediately thereafter they will get employment. Therefore, from this point of view, now the location of the University in Cachar is fully justified. And if the blame should be assigned to anybody, the blame must go to the court of the AGP Government, and not to the Government of India. Now, forgetting all these things, Sir, because this is a sensitive matter, we can appeal to the Government of India to kindly consider very seriously, effectively, to establish another Central University in the Brahmaputra Valley. We can do it. And the Government will not have any great difficulty in doing that. Therefore, I appeal to the Government of India to kindly consider very seriously and sympathetically that another Central University be established in the Brahmaputra Valley. I also appeal to the two hon. Members of the AGP in the Rajya Sabha to join me in this appeal to the Government so that a Central University may be established in the Brahmaputra valley.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): Now, Dr. R. K. Poddar. You will have eight minutes.

DR. R. K. PODDAR (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this is a welcome proposal to set up a university, a Central University in Assam. In fact, the setting up of a University should be matter of rejoining for all. Unfortunately, it has become politically contentious. I believe the Ministry of Human Resource Development is an academic Ministry and, therefore, it should not adopt the ham-handed tactics of the Home Ministry adopted in the appointment of Governors. I would, therefore, request the Minister to have again consultations with the Assam Government in order to have an agreed consensus about the location of the University. Since there is already a consensus that Cachhar valley needs a university, whether a State university or a Central university, I do not think there is an insurmountable

barrier to an agreed conclusion, agreed understanding as to where the university should be located.

Now, I am also glad that this piece of legislation is in effect an admission on the part of the Government that its policy regarding the expansion of higher education is wrong. Sir, when we plead for expansion of education, we are silenced by the barrage of statistics. We are told that at the time of Independence there were only 15 universities, now there are more than 150 universities, then there were only a few hundred colleges, and now there are thousands of colges and lakhs and lakhs of students are studying in these universities and colleges. So, perhaps, they mean to say we have had enough. The main thrust, the main theme of the national educational policy is that we should consolidate, meaning thereby we should not expand. So, it is a good indication *albeit* there may be some motives behind it for the Government is reversing that policy and accepting that India needs more universities and colleges, schools and primary schools.

Sir, I can give you an example. Sir, in Great Britain and West Bengal there is, perhaps, the same level of population Great Britain has 40 universities whereas West Bengal has only 9 univerities. It is true for all the States that we are producing too many educated people which this economy cannot absorb. But it is not the fault of the Indian people. It is the fault of the political managers of this country who cannot manage this economy and give employment to all. So, Sir, I would think that this is a healthy trend in the Government that they would consider setting up of other universities in other parts of the country and help the State Governments to set up more universities.

Now, Sir, about another aspect, which our hon. Shri Baharul Islam hinted, but did not discuss, i.e., about the other aspects of the University, which this Bill proposes o set up. Now, Sir, this, in short, would be a sub-department of the Education Department of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. This Bill proposes to give a decent burial to whatever academic autonomy exists today in the university world. Sir, I will give you some references from the Bill. The Visitor will have—Visitor, you know ultimately means the Educational Department of the Central Government—the overriding right over everything in the University. By seciton 8, sub-section (11) it will have a right to annual any proceedings of the University if it feels that it is against the regulations of the university, that it cannot be referred to court or anywhere. The Visitor will appoint the Chancellor. According to section 12, the Visitor will appoint the Vice-Chancellor. Of Course, there is a procedure, there will be a Selection Committee, two from the Executive council and one from the Visitor's nominee.

But the will have the right to re-
1.00 P.M. ject or disallow the panel which is prepared. Therefore, ultimately, only those persons who are approved by the Visitor will be appointed as Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor.

As far as the rule-making power is concerned, where the autonomy of the University lies, there will be bodies like the Executive Council, the Court, the Planning Board, the Academic Council and so on. Now, the Statutes will be made by the Executive Council and these will have to be approved by the Visitor. The Visitor will have the right to make the Statutes even without making a reference to the University as per clause 27 of the Bill.

The Executive Council, according to Statute 42, will have the right to make Ordinances on the recommendaitons of the Academic Council which, as you know, will mainly consist of professors and other teachers. If the Executive Council does not like the recommendations of the Academic Council, does not approve of them, the matter will be referred to the Visitor and his decision will be final.

[Dr R. K. Poddar]

This Bill also envisages the setting up of another super-university type of body called the Planning Board. The Planning Board will have the power to direct the Academic Council or the Executive Council on any matter in regard to the running on the development of the University. If the Executive Council or the Academic Council does not agree with the recommendations of the Planning Board, the matter will again be referred to the Visitor and his decision will be final.

In regard to the appointment of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, who is supposed to help the Vice-Chancellor, it is good that the first part of Statute 4 says that the Executive Council will appoint the Pro-Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor. But in case the Executive Council does not approve of the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor, the matter will again go to the Visitor and he can appoint the person whom the Vice-Chancellor had recommended. This is where there will be seeds of discord. There will be different contentions. There will be controversies between the Executive Council and the Vice-Chancellor. In this way, ultimately, the decision on each and everything will be taken by the Department of Education a the Centre and I do not think any academician of integrity would agree to be the Vice-Chancellor of such an university because he will have to be at the beck and call of the bureaucrats of the Central Government.

There are other obnoxious provisions. There is Statute 41 which is in regard to the Students' Council. Members of this Council will be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor or the Executive Council. The Dean of Students' Welfare will be the Chairman of the Students' Council. There will be no elected representatives of the students on this body. Sir, in our country, the university system has been built on the Briitsh model. It seems the Ministry people are not aware of what is happening in Britain today. In the British universities, representatives of the students sit on the highest bodies of the universities. even on those bodies which discipline the teachers.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): Dr. Poddar, your time is up.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: Just two or three minutes more, Sir, I believe those points have not been raised by anybody else. I want that these obnoxious, anti-democratic features of the Bill should be removed. More than that. There is another provision. I do not think there is such a provision in any other university. As per Statute 31, the students will have to sign a bond of allegiance to the Vice-Chancellor that they will not disobey the Vice-Chancellor and the other authorities of the University. Are the students bonded labourers? Nowhere, in no other university, this type of provision is there.

Now, in regard to the employees, in clause 32 of the Bill, there is a serious, undemocratic, feature that all disputes regarding employees and the university will be referred to Arbitration Tribunal which will be set up consisting of one employees' nominee, one Executive Council's nominee and one Visitor's nominee. Now, no decision of this Arbitration Tribunal will be justiciable in any civil court. So, what will happen you can very well imagine.

In the Bill all the paraphernalia of the University is there. There is the Executive Council, Academic Council, Planning Board, etc., but nowhere it is spelt out how these bodies are going to be constituted. We know the mind of the Central Government. I am sure all these bodies will be hundred per cent nominated bodies, there will be no elected representativs of the teachers students, employees etc. As you know, in West Bengal a University in the name of Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar has been set up in Midnapore. After detailed discussions, the UGC agreed to the setting up of this University and approved Rs. 10 crores to be spent on this. On this Assam University the Centre propose to spent Rs. 70 crores. There out of Rs 10 crores, Rs. 7.5 crores have already been spent by the State Government but the Centre refuss to contribute Rs. 2.5 cores on the plea that the executive bodies of this University, like the court, the executive coun-

oil, faculty etc., have elected representatives of the teachers. Sir, is it not shameful?

So, I would request the Government not to destroy the autonomy of the University and the academic freedom of the universities in India. The Government should retrace their steps so that we can have a democratically-run University where there is academic autonomy and where the teachers and students can hold their heads high.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया (बिहार): उप सभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं असम यूनिवर्सिटी बिल, 1989 का समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं और इस पर विचार करते हुए एक बात याद दिलाना चाहता हूं। वह बात जो कि हम सब की याददाश्त कम होने के कारण हम समय-समय पर भूल जाते हैं। असम जो कि हमारे नार्थ-ईस्ट पर एक सजग प्रहरी के रूप में युगयुगांतरों से खड़ा हुआ है, उस असम में 1980 में आग लग गई थी और वहां सारा कुछ जल रहा था। सिर्फ जल ही नहीं रहा था बल्कि सारा कुछ जलाकर राख किया जा रहा था। एक तरफ रीजनलिज्म की भावना उठी थी और दूसरी तरफ अपने अधिकारों की मांग लोग कर रहे थे और चारों तरफ हाहाकार था। उस समय देखने में आया था कि लोगों ने आवाजे उठानी शुरू कर दी थी कि यह हमारी सम्पत्ति है इसका हिन्दुस्तान से कोई वास्ता नहीं है या ये हमारी चीजे हैं और हम इन्हें असम से बाहर नहीं जाने देंगे। एक ऐसा भी वक्त आया था जब कि हमें तेल संकट से गुजरना पड़ा था। असम में तेल रोको आंदोलन चला और असम में सिर्फ तेल आने से मनाही नहीं की बल्कि प्लाई वुड और चाय आने पर भी रोक लगाने की कोशिश की और वहां पर तरह-तरह के आंदोलन चलाये। एक लम्हे को ऐसा महसूस होने लगा कि असम का यह राज्य हमारे शरीर से टूटकर कहीं अलग न हो जाय। इसमें कांग्रेस पार्टी ने पहल की और कांग्रेस पार्टी ने शपथ उठाई और राजीव गांधी ने कहा कि सरकार में स्थापित होने के बाद सबसे पहले अगर कोई मसला हल करेंगे तो वह पंजाब और असम की समस्या होगी। उन्होंने सत्ता में आने पर सबसे पहले पंजाब और असम दोनों मामलों को सुलझाया। परन्तु दुर्भाग्य की बात यह है कि आज तक पंजाब का मामला सुलझ न सका, आसाम का मामला कुछ हद तक सुलझा है। वहां एक जनतान्त्रिक सरकार स्थापित हुई है। यह उन्हीं पहलुओं को एक पहल है कि आज हम आसाम में सेंट्रल यूनिवर्सिटी देने जा रहे हैं। हम उसकी बात कर रहे हैं। एक ऐसा मौका आ गया था आसाम में कि गैर आसामी अधिकारी अपनी जिन्दगी बचा नहीं सकता था। एक ऐसा मौका आ गया था आसाम में कि गैर आसामी सिटीजन वहां अपनी नागरिकता को स्थापित कर के नहीं रख सकता था (व्यवधान) I am talking about that only..(*Interruptions*).. I am an Indian—I can speak about the entire country. You cannot stop me. I am an Indian, I am not a Punjabi—mind it. You may be an Assamese.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Yes, I am Assamese first and then India.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: That is your character. But I am Indian first and Indian last..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir,.. (*Interruptions*)..

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: I am not ashamed of saying that I am Assamese first and then India.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWAIA: I am proud of saying that I am Indian first and Indian last.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: I am not ashamed of saying that I am Assamese first and then Indian.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: That is your narrow mindedness. You should know how to accept your mother and father. जिस मुल्क की सन्तान एसी हो वह मां बाप क्या करेंगे। उस मां बाप का क्या कसूर है जो धिक्कारते हैं, कहते हैं कि मां मैं

[श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया]

तुम्हारा बेटा नहीं हूं। मेरी मां कोई और है मेरा बाप कोई और है। वह उसकी बात करते हैं। पहले सोचें कि मेरा बाप कौन है, मेरी मां कौन है, उसकी बात करें। अपनी पहचान इन्सान की नहीं होती, इन्सान की पहचान उसकी मां के खून से होती है और उसकी मां धरती मां है, भारत मां है और हम उसकी सन्तान हैं। उसकी पहचान पहले बताते हैं लोग। (**व्यवधान**) आसाम में भी दिखायेंगे। लोगों को तकलीफ हो जाती है जब इतिहास सामने रखा जाता है क्योंकि हर आदमी अपने चेहरे पर अच्छा लेप लगा कर, पाऊडर लगा कर, अच्छा सूट लगा कर अच्छा परफ्यूम लगा कर और अच्छा कपड़ा पहन कर अपने आप को अच्छा महसूस करने लगता है। पर पीछे भी देखा जाए हम क्या-क्या कर के आए हैं, किन-किन लाशों पर चल कर आए हैं, किन-किन लाशों पर चल कर अपनी मजार बनाई है, अपने मकान बनाए हैं, उसके बारे में सोचने की जरूरत है। मैंने शरूआत की है सिर्फ 1980 से जब आसाम में एक आदमी बैठ कर अपने आप को हिन्दुस्तानी नहीं समझ सकता था, उसे कहा जाता था तुम कहो कि तुम पहले आसामी हो तब तुम भारतीय हो अन्यथा तुम्हारी गर्दन नहीं रहेगी। अभी इसको प्रसारित कर दिया हमारे एक संसद सदस्य ने कि वह आसामी फर्स्ट है, इंडियन लास्ट है (**व्यवधान**) यह प्रमाणित कर दिया उन्होंने यह कह कर और इन्होंने हमारे लोजिक को भी प्रमाणित कर दिया है।

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, see how he is going to assassinate the character of the Assamee people. ..(*Interruptions*)..

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: India is one in many and many in one.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : गांधी ने कभी नहीं कहा कि मैं गुजराती पहले हूं और भारतीय बाद में।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय): आप अपनी बात कहिये।

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : वह तभी हमारे मुल्क का बापू बना था, राष्ट्रपिता बने थे (**व्यवधान**) मैंने तो उनको कुछ नहीं कहा, जब वह उठेंगे तो मुझे जवाब देना पड़ता है तो यह सारी चीजें जब चल रही थीं तो मुल्क के प्रधान मंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी ने शपथ ग्रहण करने के साथ-साथ यह फैसला लिया था कि इस मुल्क की दो आंख हैं—पंजाब और आसाम—जिनमें रेत के कण रिड़क रहे हैं, उन कणों को निकालने की जरूरत है। इसलिए 14 अगस्त, 1985 को अकार्ड हुआ जिसके कारण आपके मुख्य मंत्री जो आसाम के मुख्य मंत्री हैं हमारे भी मुख्य मंत्री हैं और जनतान्त्रिक माध्यम से वहां पर आज पदस्थापित हैं और आपकी सरकार चल रही है, जनता ने आपको समर्थन दिया है। यह सेंट्रल यूनीवर्सिटी का मुद्दा भी उसी माध्यम से आता है क्योंकि अगर कोई रोगी होता है बीमार होता है तो सिर्फ दवाइयों से इलाज नहीं होता है दवाइयों से इलाज करके देखा जाता है कि कहीं उसके मकान के चारों तरफ कोई गंदगी तो नहीं है। जिस गंदगी के कारण बैक्टीरिया फारमेशन हो रहा है और जो वह पानी पीता है उसको बैक्टीरिया इन्फैक्शन होता है। उसमें भी सुधार करने की जरूरत होती है। तो किसी भी राज्य में कोई भी आंदोलन होता है तो उसके पीछे कुछ न कुछ कारण होते हैं। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि बिना किसी कारण के उन्होंने आंदोलन किया था। उसकी अपनी बातें थीं। उन्होंने अपनी बातें कही हैं। किंतु उन्हें आंदोलन सुधारना है। मैं अपनी स्पीच में पहले भी कह गया हूं। हमें ऐसा लगने लगा था कि भारत का यह हिस्सा शायद मुल्क के साथ नहीं रह सकेगा। अगर किसी बड़ परिवार में 5 भाई लड़ने लगते हैं तो मां बाप का फर्ज बनता है कि उन पांचों भाइयों को एक जवाइंट परिवार में कैसे रखे और कोशिश रहती है लेकिन बरगलाने वाले, भड़काने वाले बड़े आते हैं, वे किसी एक भाई को कहते हैं कि तुम्हें तुम्हारा बाप कम प्यार करता है; तुम्हारी मां तुम्हें कम खाना देती है इसलिए तुम इसके विरुद्ध विद्रोह करो

और अपना घर अलग ले जाओ, पड़ोस में घर ले लो। कई बार मां से ज्यादा मौसी को दर्द जागता है। यही बात मुझे कहनी है कि हिंदुस्तान एक ज्वाइंट परिवार की तरह है और हम इस परिवार में ये 31–32 राज्य हैं, ये भाई हैं और भाई बहिनों की तरह रहते हैं। अगर इनमें कोई गलतफहमी आती है तो उसको दूर करना माता पिता का काम होता है और यह पूरा काम निभाया था राजीव गांधी जी ने 14 अगस्त, 1985 को आसाम एकार्ड लाकर और उसी में उन्होंने एक वचन दिया था कि आसाम को मैं एक सेन्ट्रल यूनिवर्सिटी भी दूंगा और वह आज पूरा किया गया है तो इसमें विरोध करने की क्या जरुरत है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या बराक वैली आसाम का हिस्सा नहीं है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूं ए.जी.पी. की सरकार से कि बराक वैली क्या आसाम का हिस्सा नहीं है। अगर है तो जब प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि मैं एक केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय आसाम को दूंगा और अगर वह बराक वैली में प्रतिस्थापित होता है तो क्या वह आसाम का नहीं होगा। बखूबी होगा . . (**व्यवधान**) . . I know the topography of Assam. I went to Assam several times.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय) : फिर आप जवाब देने लगे हैं।

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Topography of Assam is not your paternal propert, Mrs. Bijoya Chakravarty. मेरे कहने का मतलब है या तो यह बात कहे कि बराक वैली आसाम का हिस्सा नहीं है बराक वैली का अलग राज्य बना दो, आप दे दो उन्हें दूसरा, या तो यह कहें, या यह कहें कि बराक वैली में अगर केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय मिलता है तो हम उसका स्वागत करते हैं। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपको एक बात याद दिलाना चाहता हूं। इतिहास के पन्ने पलटें, जरा देखें जिस वक्त आसाम जल रहा था तो बराक वैली के छात्रों और लोगों ने किस रास्ते को अपनाया। उनकी भी मांगें थीं। पर उन्होंने एक ही आवाज उठायी और कहा कि नहीं हम हिंसा के रास्ते पर नहीं अहिंसा के रास्ते पर जायेंगे। स्कूल कालेज चलते रहे। पर दुर्भाग्य उनका है कि वे चलते रहे, स्कूल कालेज चलते रहे किन्तु उनके बोर्ड के दफ्तर गुवाहाटी में थे . . (**व्यवधान**)

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Do you think it is a reward for their non-cooperation with the agitation?

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: I am coming to that. एक छात्र पढ़ना चाहता है पर दुर्भाग्य इस बात का है कि उसके बोर्ड का जो आफिस है वह गुवाहाटी में है, वह नहीं चल रहा है। इसलिये वह इम्तिहान नहीं दे सका।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय) : आप कृपया समाप्त कीजिये।

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : विपक्ष के सदस्यों ने मेरा समय खराब किया . . (**व्यवधान**) मुझे वक्त दें।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय): एक दो मिनट में खत्म करिये।

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : पहले मुझे बता दें कि मेरा कितना वक्त है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय) : आपका वक्त खत्म हो चुका है। दो मिनट ज्यादा हो गये हैं।

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : तो मैं पहले ही बैठ जाता हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय) : नहीं आप दो मिनट और बोल लीजिये।

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : इसके साथ ही मैं यह बताना चाहता हूं कि इसकी यह कीमत मिली, पूरा साल पढ़ने के बावजूद, स्कूल कालेज जाने के बावजूद क्योंकि यूनिवर्सिटी गुवाहटी में है और यूनिवर्सिटी में स्ट्राइक है इसलिये उनके इम्तिहान नहीं होंगे। यह महसूल उनको देना पड़ा। यह जबरन चढ़ाया गया उन पर कि पढ़ाई मत करो। मुझे याद आता है वह दिन जब चीन में माओत्से तुंग ने आन्दोलन चलाया था तो उन्होंने क्या किया कि 20 साल के लिये एजूकेशन सिस्टम को कोलेप्स कर दिया। यही पद्धति हमारे हिन्दुस्तान में चली और 1969 के बाद आगे बढ़े तो एक तरफ श्रीकाकुलम और दूसरी तरफ गोपीवल्लभपुर.. (व्यवधान).

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: What about the 1942 Movement? Please explain.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Madam, I will explain to you everything. Don't worry. श्रीकाकुलम और गोपीवल्लभपुर में यह नारे लगे कि चीन के चेयरमैन हमारे चेयरमैन, माओत्से तुंग जुग-जुग जीओ। चीन का चैयरमैन हमारा चैयरमैन, माओ-त्से-तुंग जुग-जुग जिओ और उन्होंने कहा चारों तरफ तुम स्कूल, कालेज, लाइब्रेरी और लबारेटरी जला डालो। क्यों? इसलिये कि एजूकेशन सिस्टम को कोलेप्स कर दो, लोगों को अपने इतिहास का पता नहीं रहे। क्यों नहीं पता रहे? उस इतिहास का जब पता ही नहीं रहेगा कि साहब इस मुल्क को आजाद करने के लिये शहीद भगत सिंह फांसी के फंदे पर क्यों चढ़ा, सुभाष चन्द्र बोस को यह मुल्क छोड़ कर मलाया में क्यों जाकर बैठना पड़ा, गांधी जी ने सत्याग्रह का आन्दोलन क्यों चलाया, पं. नेहरू क्यों जेल गये और यह कुर्बानियां लोगों ने क्यों की? जब इस इतिहास का ही पता नहीं रहेगा तो आये दिन कोई भी बन्दूक लेकर आकर खड़ा हो जायेगा सामने और कहेगा कि मैंने आजादी दिलाई है और मैं तुम्हारा किंग हूं, जैसे माओ-त्से-तुंग बना था। आज वह सारा कुछ छीन कर करके यहां रेड बुक होली बाईबल बन गई, भगवद्गीता बन गई, गुरू ग्रंथ बन गया और कुरान शरीफ बन गया।

इसी तरह इस पद्धति पर असम का आन्दोलन चल रहा था, पर असम के कुछ छात्रों ने, जिन्होंने इनके साथ समर्थन नहीं दिया और कहा, नहीं, हम शिक्षा को ग्रहण करना चाहते हैं, पर उनका शिक्षा ग्रहण करने का अधिकार भी छीनते हैं!

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय): अब आप समाप्त कीजिये।

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : साढ़े बाईस लाख लोग कछार के इससे सब्र किये, और उनकी मजबूरियों को मद्देनजर रखते हुये अगर केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कोई विचार किया है, तो इसमें लोगों को दर्द क्यों होता है? मैं एक मिनट और लूंगा।

आज हमारे मुल्क में जो सब से बड़ी चीज की जरूरत है, वह है शिक्षा की और शिक्षा के मामले में जब हम एक यूनिवर्सिटी खोलने की बात करते हैं, तो इतनी अड़चनें पैदा होती है।

मैं आपके माध्यम से, हमारे जो साथी हैं, उनसे यह भी प्रश्न करता हूं कि वह यह तो बतायें कि क्या असम सरकार सिलचर में एक यूनिवर्सिटी खोलना नहीं चाहती? वह भी चाहती है। वहां पर यूनिवर्सिटी की जरूरत है और उन्होंने भी उसका सर्वे करवाया है कि वहां सख्त जरूरत है, पर वह "सेंट्रल" शब्द लगाना उन्हें खराब लग रहा है।

उनको लग रहा है कि नहीं वह स्टेट यूनिवर्सिटी होनी चाहिये "सेंट्रल" वर्ड नहीं लगना चाहिये।

अभी-अभी हमारे मार्क्सवादी बन्धु कह रहे थे और बंगाल की तुलना युनाइटड

किंगडम से की जा रही थी कि इन दोनों की पापुलेशन एक है । वहां पर 45 यूनिवर्सिटीज हैं और बंगाल में नौ यूनिवर्सिटीज हैं, इस बात की तुलना की जा रही थी – तब ऐसा फर्क क्यों है ? अगर कोई यूनिवर्सिटी खोली जाती है, तो समझ करके ही उसका क्षेत्रवाद, उसका जातिवाद, उसके भाषावाद को, सब को एक तरफ रख कर उसका समर्थन करना हमारा धर्म बनता है ।

यही कहते हुये मैं आपसे इजाजत चाहता हूं ।

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.]

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): There has been a demand by the people of Assam since a decade for the establishment of a Central university in Assam. So far as the location is concerned, the demand was for setting it up at Tezpur in the northern Bramhaputra region. I am very happy that the demand of the people of Assam has been conceded by introducing the present Assam University Bill, 1989. So, so far as the introduction of the Bill for the establishment of a university in Assam is concerned. I support and welcome this measure. But, at the same time, I would like to impress upon the Central Government that the desire and wishes of the people of Assam should be taken into consideration. The State Government and the Chief Minister of Assam wanted that the university should be located at Tezpur near the Brahmaputra valley. That demand has not been conceded. They have gone against the wishes of the people of Assam and also against the wishes of the State Government. The proper course for the Central Government was to take into consideration the views of the properly elected Government and its Chief Minister. They have not done that. There lies the difficulty.

I have heard two opinions in the House. Of course, so far as the establishment of the university is concerned, there is no dispute about it. But so far as the location is concerned, there seems to be a dispute and a difference of opinion. One section is in favour of the present location and the other section is in favour of its location at Tezpur. The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill says that the Central University may be located in the Cachar district. This is the only divergent opinion. So far as the establishment of the university is concerned, there is no dispute about it. But the Central Government has failed to take into consideration the wishes of the people of Assam. The State Government has given its opinion, its preference for location of the university. That is the proper opinion because it is an elected Government. The Chief Minister is elected. The opinion of the people of Assam is that the university should be located at Tezpur, northern region of the Brahmaputra Valley but they have not done that. When the Prime Minister visited Assam in 1985, he also announced that the Central University will be located near Tezpur. You name the university by any name, we are not concerned but we are concerned about its location because it is the opinion of the people of Assam. Somebody from that side said : "Why should we name it as Tezpur University?" We do not want that it should be named as Tezpur University but it should be located at a place where it would be beneficial to the people of Assam as a whole. We welcome that there should be Assam University. It is all right. But if it is located at a place where there is already a number of other institutions or colleges that will not be beneficial to the people of Assam. So far as location of the present university at Cachar is concerned, already there are a number of other institutions and mills. There is a medical college. There is a sugar mill. There is a paper mill and there is an engineering college also. So where is the need to have another university in that region? The opinion of the people of Assam is that it should be located at Tezpur, northern region of the Brahmaputra valley. If in spite of that the Central Government wants to set up this university at Cachar, I would request the Centre to

[Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy]

have another university. I request the Members from both sides to fight for two universities instead of one. Don't fight among yourselves. Don't oppose each other. I request from that side to demand another university for the backward areas.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddy, it is a very easy solution.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: So far as our State is concerned, we demand more universities because student population is growing and they are not getting admission. So let us have as many universities as possible. When the Prime Minister visited Assam in 1985 he promised one university. When he comes to Assam again you demand another university. You demand in this House also. Don't quarrel among yourselves but demand another university. I also request the Minister to consider the view of the people of Assam and have another university if he is not going to change the present location. The first thing is you change the present location. You concede to the demand of the people of Assam in consultation with the Chief Minister. That is the proper step. Whenever the Central Government wants to do anything the proper method is to consult the State Government and the Chief Minister and then decide about the things. That will be proper. In spite of that if you want to do in a one-sided way, then you have another university. There is nothing wrong in it. Madam, you have been kind enough to give me more time. I thought you will ring the bell. I want to say two things. The first thing is, so far as the establishment of university is concerned, there is no dispute about it. We welcome it. Secondly, so far as the location of the university is concerned, there is a difference of opinion. But all of us, whether from this side of the House or that side of the House, belong to Assam because Assam is a part of this great country, India. So, in whichever part of the country the university is located, we must welcome it. Naturally, there will be some backward areas. They also want to prosper. All regions should prosper. So, if it is located at Tezpur near the northern Brahmaputra region, then the north-eastern regions will also be helped and the States like Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur will also be benefited. All these things should be taken into consideration and the Government must concede the demand of the State of Assam. The Assam Government should also be consulted and they must give due consideration to the location of the university. In spite of all this, if you stick to your position in respect of location, then concede their demand for another university. Thank you.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Madam, I want to speak. I am also concerned with it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your name is there but not now.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: We are very much concerned with it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your name is there in the list but not now..... (*Interruptions*)...Your name is listed as a speaker but not now because I believe the previous Presiding Officer, Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya asked the Members whether we are going to have lunch or not. I was going to request the Members not to have lunch hour but I believe, I have to follow the advice and the decision of the Presiding Officer who was here before.

So, we adjourn for lunch till 2.30.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-three minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-two minutes past two of the clock.

[**The Vice Chairman (Shri Jagesh Desai** in the Chair.]

ASSAM UNIVERSITY BILL—Contd.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

I have been listening, with rapt attention, to the arguments put forth by both the gides. I was pained by the speech made by Mr. Nagen Saikia and the interruptions made by Mrs. Chakravarty. Sir, I have had the privi-